

C.I.A. 'link' in killing

POLICE investigating the murder in Chicago of Sam Giancana, a gangster, believe he may have been shot by crime syndicate chiefs fearing he would barter their secrets for his own freedom.

Giancana, 65, was to have been called before the Senate intelligence committee investigating the alleged American Government plot to assassinate Dr. Castro, the Cuban Prime Minister. He had been identified as a participant in the plot.

C.I.A. and Mafia

The Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A.) is said to have worked with the Mafia in a plot to kill Dr. Castro, his brother Raoul, and Che Guevara, the Cuban guerrilla leader, 14 years ago.

A wealthy former henchman of Al Capone, Giancana was also threatened with prosecution for perjury resulting from a quarte

By Our
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in Washington

separate criminal hearing last year. He faced a possible lengthy term in prison if found guilty. A sick man, he feared he would die in prison.

Giancana was found in his Chicago home with five bullets in his neck and one in his mouth. The small size of the bullets—.22 calibre—is unusual for a professional killing but the shooting would have been less noisy than with a larger pistol.

The threatened perjury prosecution arose from Giancana's agreement last December to testify before a Federal grand jury investigating organised crime. He was granted immunity from prosecution and promised he would not be asked questions on events before January, 1972.

Mr. Peter Vaira, head of the Department of Justice strike force organised crime in Chicago

said yesterday that Giancana was believed to have perjured himself at the hearings. Immunity does not extend to this crime.

There was speculation in Washington yesterday on whether Giancana could have provided the key to the riddle of what role, if any, the Kennedy brothers played in the alleged Castro assassination plot.

Called off

The plot was said to have been hatched in the last months of the Eisenhower Administration and unsuccessfully attempted in the first months of President John Kennedy's administration in 1961. It was all called off just before the C.I.A.'s ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion.

A former senior C.I.A. official claimed recently that Mr. Robert Kennedy, when Attorney General, learnt of the involvement of Giancana in the plot. What has not been disclosed is whether President Kennedy himself knew of it.